THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Handlooms constitute a timeless facet of the rich cultural heritage of India. Tradition of weaving by hand is a part of the country's cultural ethos. The strength of Handloom lies in introducing innovative design, which cannot be replicated by the Powerloom Sector. As an economic activity, the handloom sector occupies a place second only to agriculture in providing livelihood to the people.

Office of Development Commissioner for Handlooms in the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India has been liberally funding the State Governments for implementing various schemes for handloom weavers to address the felt needs of the handloom weavers to enhance their production, productivity and enhance the income and social economic status of the weavers by providing skill up-gradation, infrastructure and input supply support to them. During the 11th Five Year Plan, the Office of Development Commissioner for Handlooms has been implementing 5 Schemes *viz.* (1) Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme, (2) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme which consist of Health Insurance Scheme and Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana, (3) Mill Gate Price Scheme, (4) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme, and (5) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme.

The State Government is also attaching utmost priority in providing continuous employment and regular wages to the Handloom Weavers by extending financial assistance. The Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing the free distribution scheme as well as uniform cloth for students with huge financial outlay, thereby, the handloom weavers are getting continuous employment and reasonable wages throughout the year. Government of Tamil Nadu is providing free electricity of 100 units by monthly to all the handloom weavers. Further, the Government is also also sanctioning Rs. 400 as Old Age Pension (OAP) to the weavers who attained 60 years of age and family pension of Rs. 550 p.m. to the legal heir of the weaver for 10 years in the event of death of weaver before attaining the age of 60 years. Under Comprehensive Welfare Scheme which consist of Health Insurance and Mahatama Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana of the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms) the medical and insurance benefits are extended to all the weavers as well as ancillary workers both within and outside the cooperative fold.

In view of the several welfare measures taken by Central Government and State Government for the welfare of weavers there is no urge from the handloom weavers of Tamil Nadu for conversion from handlooms to powerlooms.

Expansion of textiles technical market

1077. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether expansion of our textiles technical market is on the fast track and it could grow more than four times;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the deficiencies that are afflicting its expansion and what is the action plan to address them; and

(d) what is the status of this sector in Orissa and Jharkhand States, *inter-alia* indicating the action plan of the Centre to upgrade this sector in these backward regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The growth in Technical Textiles projected by the Working Group on Textiles and Jute Industry for the eleventh five year plan (2007-2012) is given below.

The Estimated Market size

(Rs. crore)

Sl. No.	T.T. Sector	Without regulatory framework estimated market size during 2006-07 as per CETT	Without regulatory frame-work		With regulatory framework for items covered under Protech, Geotech and Oekotech	
			Assumed growth rate	Estimated market size during 2011-12	Assumed growth rate	Estimated market size during 2011-12
1.	Clothtech	7988.73	12	14078.87	12	14078.87
2.	Packtech	5785.93	20	14397.25	20	14397.25
3.	Sporttech	1906.36	12	3359.66	12	3359.66
4.	Mobiltech	1613.53	15	3245.39	15	3245.39
5.	Builtech	1415.43	15	2846.94	15	2846.94
6.	Hometech	1628.74	16	3420.91	16	3420.91
7.	Indutech	1253.35	12	2208.83	12	2208.83
8.	Meditech	1280.32	12	2256.36	20	3185.85
9.	Protech	1027.11	17	2251.89	25.45	3191.32
10.	Geotech	1688.91	15	3397.00	68.98	23269.28
11.	Agrotech	417.77	8	613.84	8	613.84
12.	Oekotech	69.91	12	123.21	68.17	940.33
	TOTAL:	26076.09	14.94	52200.13	24.57	74758.46

(c) (i) Deficiencies that are afflicting the expansion of the Technical Textile Market are as follows:

1. Lack of advanced technology and specialized testing and evaluation facilities in different application areas of technical textiles.

2. Raw material for Technical Textile like Ultra high performance polyethylene fibre, Aramid yarn, high tenacity yarn etc. are not manufactured indigenously.

3. Specific technical textiles machinery and equipment are not manufactured indigenously, hence requires import.

4. Specific market size of each product and other industry data is not available.

5. Inadequate availability of qualified personnel in the technical textiles sector.

6. The awareness level about technical textiles is poor both at the end of the manufacturers and consumers.

(ii) In order to remove the deficiencies afflicting the expansion of the Technical Textile industry, the Government has taken the following measures.

1. Four Centres of Excellence (COE) have been designated to provide support to the manufactures of the identified segments of the technical textile industry namely: The Bombay Textile Research Association (BTRA) as lead partner for Geotech; Synthetic and Art Silk Mills Research Association (SASMIRS) as lead partner for Agrotech; Northern India Textile Research Association (NTIRA) as lead partner for Protech and South India Textile Research Association (SITRA) as lead partner for Meditech. The COEs will have the following facilities for the benefit of Technical Textile Entrepreneurs.

    - Facilities for resting and evaluation of products of segments of technical textiles.
    - Development as a national and international accreditation venter.
    - Development of Resource Centre with I.T. infrastructure.
    - Facilities for training of core personnel.
    - Facilities for regular training of personnel from the industry:

2. The technical textile machinery is covered at Annex — D-2 of GR on Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for 5% Interest Reimbursement. In the modified TUFS applicable from 01-04-2007, specified technical textile machinery covered at Annex-K of GR on TUFS has been provided with additional benefit in terms of 10 percent capital subsidy in addition to 5 percent interest reimbursement.

The state-wise progress of Technical Textiles including Non wovens under TUFS upto 31/03/2008 (Provisional) is given below

(Rs. Crore)

State/Union territory	Applications sanctioned			Applications disbursed	
	No.	Project Cost	Amount	No.	Amount
Andhra Pradesh	1	16.91	9.75	1	9.67
Chandigarh	1	8.05	4.60	1	4.16
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	3.95	2.70	1	2.70
Delhi	17	48.25	29.60	17	24.46
Gujarat	67	128.43	53.34	67	50.84
Haryana	29	190.70	134.25	29	133.61
Himachal Pradesh	1	4.74	2.80	1	2.80
Karnataka	9	12.98	20.43	9	17.63
Madhya Pradesh	1	10.35	7.47	1	7.47
Maharashtra	38	146.54	117.58	38	58.89
Punjab	24	682.84	162.24	24	161.81
Rajasthan	13	157.46	115.52	13	102.12
Tamil Nadu	64	160.90	98.94	64	94.79
Uttar Pradesh	10	17.43	10.94	10	10.94
West Bengal	4	8.46	5.44	4	3.21
TOTAL:	280	1598.00	775.59	280	685.10

3. As most of the technical textiles machinery are not produced in the country, major machinery required for the technical textiles has been placed in the concessional custom duty list of 5 percent of list 46, Notification No. 21/2002-CUS of Customs Tariff.

4. The base line survey of technical textile industry designated to ICRA Management Consultancy Services, will help the entrepreneurs to access information of all the producers, consumers, importers and exporters of all categories of Technical Textiles in the country.

(d) Status of Technical Textile Sector in Orissa and Jharkhand states:-

The schemes indicated above are applicable to all the technical textile units located in the country including backward regions of Orissa and Jharkhand state.